

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS:BEXP,IR,BE
SUBJECT: SAR CHESHMEN COPPER MINING

REF: TEHRAN 12763,TEHRAN 10730

1.IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS REPORTED IN TEHRAN 12763,THE
JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE BELGIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY PROVIDES A LIST OF SEVEN BELGIAN CABINET MINISTERS
AND THE KING WITH WHOM IRANIAN
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE MINISTER ANSARY MET WHILE IN BRUSSELS,
ADDING THAT HE ALSO MET " MAY INDUSTRIALISTS"FROM THE BELGIAN
PRIVATE SECTOR.
IN ADDITION TO THE NONFERROUS METALS PROJECTON WHICH
"CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS REGISTERED", THE TALKS YIELDED
AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES IN THE
FIELDS OF ENERGY,HOUSING,CIVL ENGINEERING,TECHNOLOGY,
EDUCATION,AND TRANSPORTATION.BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
KNOOPS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER HERMAN
WERE INVITED TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN (TIME NOT
SPECIFIED).

2.THE PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
ADDED ORALLLY THAT THE SAR CHESHMEH MININGPROJECT IS ALMOST
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READY TO BE APPROVED,BUT THAT SOME DETAILS REMAIN TO BE
WORKED OUT.A DELEGATION FROM THE BELGIAN FIRM MECHIM AND
THE GERMAN FIRM KRUPP WILL SOON VISIT IRAN TO FINALIZE
THE AGREEMENT (MECHIM IS THE NONFERROUS METALS DIVISION
OF THE LARGE SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE HOLDING COMPANY).
BLISTER PRODUCTION CAN COME ON STREAM IN 1977.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION,THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE AL PASO (AMERICAN)-DISTRIGAZ (BELGIAN)IRANIA PORJECT IS OFF.IN REPORTING ON THIS MATTER,THE BELGIAN DAILY DE STANDAARD SAYS THAT DIFFICULTIES AROSE OVER EL PASO/DISTRIGAZ'DESIRE FOR LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH IRAN AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES,A NATURAL GAS TERMINAL,AN INSTALLATION TO LIQUEFY NATURAL GAS,AND LNG TANKERS.

4.DE STANDAARD ATTRIBUTES TO ANSARY THE INFORMATION THAT THE SAR CHESHMEH COPPER MINE WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD AN MAY MAKE IRAN THE SIXTH LARGEST COPPER-PRODUCING COUNTRY.IT HAS TOTAL RESERVES OF APPROXIMATELY 2 BILLION TONS(ONE BILLION TONS PROVED) OF 1.5 PERCENT COPPER ORE.IN THE FIRST STAGE,ABOUT 125.000 TO 150,000 TONS OF COPPER ARE TO BE REFINED ANNUALLY AND PROCESSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE IN IRANIAN INDUSTRY.INVESTMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO AMOUNT TO DOLS 130-135 MILLION.KRUPP IS TO BUILD THE REFINERY,AND MECHIM WILL BE INVOLVED CHIEFLY IN TRANSFER OF TECHONLOGY. RENNER

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